DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 152 861 UD 017 500

AUTHOR Foushee, Ray; Hamilton, Doug
TITLE Housing Desegregation Increases as Schools Desegregate in Jefferson County.
INSTITUTION Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, Louisville.
PUB DATE May 77
NOTE 13p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Demography; Elementary Secondary Education; Housing Discrimination; *Housing Patterns; *Metropolitan Areas; *Racial Integration; *School Integration; Student Transportation; *Suburban Housing; *Suburbs; Urban to Suburban Migration
IDENTIFIERS *Kentucky (Jefferson County)

ABSTRACT

The number of black pupils living in traditionally all white suburban Jefferson County neighborhoods has increased significantly since 1974. Data taken from school enrollment information indicate a 63 percent increase in the three years from 1974 to 1977. Increases in housing desegregation in suburban areas are complemented by a slight lessening of segregation in the city of Louisville, due mainly to the decrease of black pupils in the city boundaries. Statistics indicating these trends are presented in table form. The statistics are significant because, under the desegregation plan, attendance areas which become sufficiently desegregated to meet court guidelines can become exempted from transportation for the purpose of desegregation. Factors contributing to housing desegregation are analyzed, and the need for broadening fair housing efforts is stressed. (Author/GC)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED152861

Housing Desegregation Increases As Schools Desegregate In Jefferson County

Jefferson County Enrollments Show 63% Increase in Black Pupils Residing in Suburban Areas from 1974 to 1977

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

UD017500

KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
701 West Walnut Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40203

HOUSING DESEGREGATION INCREASES AS SCHOOLS DESEGREGATE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

The number of black pupils residing in traditionally all-white suburban Jefferson County neighborhoods has increased more in the past three years than during the entire twelve-year period prior to 1974. An analysis of school enrollment and pupil residency data shows a 63 per cent increase in the number of black pupils residing in suburban areas since 1974. Estimates of the number of black pupils that reside in suburban Jefferson County increased from 3,948 to 6,451 between the 1973-74 and 1976-77 school years. In just three years the number of black pupils residing outside the city of Louisville has increased more than in the entire twelve-year period since 1961.

An increasing black enrollment in suburban Jefferson County, and a decreasing black enrollment in the city, is shown in Table A. Since 1973, the number of black pupils in suburban Jefferson County increased by 2,503, while black pupils in the city declined by 1,892. During the past three years, the total number of black pupils in Jefferson County public schools increased by 611, which shows that most of the increase resulted from blacks moving from the city.

TABLE A

Black Pupils by Residence for Jefferson County, 1974-1977

	1973-74	1976-77	Change
City of Louisville	21,548	19,656	- 1,892
Suburban County	3,948	6,451	+ 2,503
Total County	25,496	26,107	+ 611

Source: Jefferson County Board of Education, see page 10.

Using pupil enrollment data as an indicator of changes in the distribution of black families shows an unmistakable trend toward housing desegregation in previously all-white segregated areas of Jefferson County. Most of the increase in the number of black pupils can be identified in the large housing areas where blacks have traditionally not found housing, and this indicates that black families are making desegregating moves. The fact that most of the increase in black pupils has not occurred in those suburban areas where blacks are already concentrated indicates a trend toward desegregation, though the data available for use in this report does not permit an exact "head count" for detailed areas of the county.

TABLE B

Increase of Black Pupils' Residence in Segregated and Desegregated Areas of Suburban Jefferson County, 1974-1977

	Total	Segregated Areas	%	Desegregated Areas	%
1974	3,948	2,157	54	1,791	46
1977	6,451	2,506	39	3,945	61
Increase	2,503	349	14	2,154	86

Source: Jefferson County Board of Education, see page 10.

Since 1974, the number of black pupils in suburban Jefferson County has increased by 2,503, as shown in Table B. Of these pupils, 2,154 represents increases outside the traditionally segregated suburban areas of Newburg, Cane Run, Berrytown and Griffytown. These increases in black pupil residence caused a reversal in the distribution of suburban black students between desegregated and segregated areas. A majority (61 per cent) of the suburban black pupils resided in desegregated areas in 1977, compared to 46 per cent in 1974. For the past three years, 86 per cent of the

increase in black pupils outside the city of Louisville took place in areas where those black pupils will be exempted from desegregation transportation because they are in a minority and live in desegregated housing.

This increase is significant because under the desegregation plan school attendance areas which become sufficiently desegregated to meet the Court guidelines can become exempted from any transportation for the purpose of desegregation. Furthermore, the desegregation plan is based on the principle that one additional black child in a formerly white school "desegregates" three white pupils and will reduce the need for transporting white pupils for desegregation.

Although the indicators of housing desegregation identified in this report are miniscule when compared to the near totally segregated character of the Louisville-Jefferson County metropolitan area documented in the December 1973 report More Housing Segregation Than Ever...In Louisville and Jefferson County, the increases of blacks in suburban areas run counter to trends toward increasing housing segregation since 1940. Comparing the data for black pupil residence in segregated or desegregated areas anywhere in the county since 1974 indicates that increased housing desegregation has been the trend for the past three years, as shown in Table C. For the entire county, the number of black pupils that reside in desegregated areas increased by 65 per cent (from 2,615 to 4,337), while the number of black pupils residing in segregated areas decreased by 8 per cent (from 23,602 to 21,620.)

TABLE C

Residence of Black Pupils in Segregated or Desegregated Areas of Jefferson County, 1974-1977

Segregated Pupils by Residence

Louisville			Jefferson Co.			Total		
1974	1977	% Change	1974	1977	% Change	1974	1977	% Change
20,714	19,224	-7.2	2,157	2,506	+ 13.9	23,602	21,620	-8

Desegregated Pupils by Residence

Louisville			Jefferson Co.			Total		
1974	1977	% Change	1974	1977	% Change	1974	1977	% Change
834	432	-48.2	1,781	3,945	+ 122	2,615	4,337	+ 65.9

Source: Jefferson County Board of Education, see page 10.

The increases of black pupils in desegregated areas only in suburban Jefferson County show the increases in housing desegregation more clearly because black pupils in these areas more than doubled from 1,781 to 3,945 in the past three years. During the same period, the number of black suburban pupils residing in segregated areas increased by 14 per cent, from 2,157 to 2,506.

The increases in housing desegregation in suburban areas indicated in this analysis are complemented by a slight lessening of segregation in the city of Louisville due mainly to the decrease of black pupils in the city boundaries. At the same time black resident enrollment has been going up in suburban Jefferson County, the number of black pupils has declined in the city from 21,548 to 19,656. Most of this decrease occurred because of a decline in the number of black pupils residing in traditionally segregated city areas from 20,714 in 1974 to 19,224 in 1977 (Table C). Black city pupils that reside in desegregated city areas also declined from 834 to 432 during the same period.

The increase of black pupils in suburban Jefferson County in the past three years is far greater than the increase for any three-year period since 1956, as shown in Table D. Between the 1973-74 and 1976-77 school years, the number of black pupils in Jefferson County increased by 2,503 from 3,948 to 6,451. In the previous twelve years between 1961 and 1972, the number of black pupils increased by 2,392 from 1,002 to 3,394.

TABLE D

Student Enrollment in Suburban Jefferson County 1956-1977

Total

Year	Black	Other	Per cent Black
1956	220	13,276	1.6
1961	1,002	32,158	3.0
1966	2,711	66,789	3.9
1967	2,910	78,306	3.6
1968	3,062	84,580	3.5
1969	3,110	87,045	3.4
1970	3,341	90,848	3.5
1971	3,406	90,082	3.6
1972	3,394	87,813	3.7
1974	3,948	89,117	4.2
1975	4,628	84,287	5.2
1977	6,451	66,606	8.9

Source: Jefferson County Board of Education, see page 10.

The staff of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights believes that these significant shifts in student residency patterns have come about for several interrelated reasons:

1. The school desegregation plan which went into effect in the fall of 1975 provides a built-in incentive for families, both black and white, to make moves which result in housing desegregation. Under the terms of that plan, any student who lives in a school attendance district in which he or she is in the racial minority, is exempt from any transportation away from that school.

This point was emphasized in a November 1975 Commission pamphlet entitled 6 Ways to Avoid Busing. That publication presented a complete list of schools which were already exempt from the transportation aspects of the desegregation plan, due to the fact that they already have a "naturally" desegregated student population. In addition, some other schools not already exempt have black enrollments which put them very close to the percentage at which they, too, could be omitted from the student transportation pattern. In light of this fact, desegregated moves into these school attendance areas are especially significant.

2. The prospect of having their children transported to "away" schools for up to ten of their twelve years in school provides a significant motivation for black parents to seek new housing in areas where this inconvenience could be avoided. Blacks would like to avoid the need for student transportation as much as whites, if not more so, simply because of the relatively large number of years their children are subject to it.

3. The local Section 8 Housing Assistance Program, which provides government-sponsored rent subsidies to limited-income families meeting certain eligibility requirements, has provided both a strong incentive and the means to make desegregated moves to a large number of black families who would otherwise have been unable to consider relocating in outlying suburban areas. After some initial conflicts over how the program was to be administered in this area, the city and county agreed to combine their separate Section 8 programs into one operation with a single office, so that all participants would have the widest possible choice of housing throughout the area.

This move proved to be highly effective. Through the end of 1976, 434 black families signed new leases under the provisions of the local Section 8 program. Of these families, 266, or 61 per cent, chose to live in desegregated housing. The number of black families choosing desegregated housing would no doubt be even greater were it not for the fact that the heavily black downtown area's Village West Apartments had units especially designated for Section 8 families, and is one of the few complexes in the county which has a large number of four-bedroom apartments and is capable of housing large families. Nonetheless, this figure of 61 per cent desegregated moves in Jefferson County compares favorably with only 45 per cent for the entire Atlanta region of HUD.

The fact that there has been an average of approximately two children in each black family which was certified for the Section 8 program in Jefferson County illustrates the significant potential effect which this program alone has had, and will continue to exert on the county's changing student residency pattern. Innovative programs such as Section 8 have greatly contributed to the recent trend toward housing desegregation.

4. The fact that all schools are desegregated has itself been a major factor in encouraging blacks to make desegregated housing moves. Prior to comprehensive school desegregation, many black families were hesitant to be the first to move into a white school attendance area where their children would be the only black students in the school. Because of the present uniform distribution of students throughout the system, however, this is no longer a concern which must affect their decision.

5. A portion of the gains among blacks documented in this report is due to a recognition by local communities that the encouragement of minorities to seek housing in predominantly white areas is beneficial to both blacks and whites. One example of such encouragement is the pamphlet issued in late 1975 by the Eastern Area Council, which was widely distributed to black organizations and throughout black residential areas of the county. This pamphlet, aimed primarily at the black homeseeker, emphasizes the advantages of living in the East End, states a commitment to further desegregate that area's neighborhoods, and extends an invitation to blacks to consider making their next move to that sector of the county.

CONCLUSIONS

Significant progress has been made in Jefferson County housing desegregation, but this represents only an initial step in the right direction. Much more needs to be done to achieve a fair housing market.

All housing-related agencies and institutions in Jefferson County should examine their procedures and policies to ensure that they are supporting housing desegregation. If the progress exhibited in the past three years continues in future years, fair housing can become a reality in all areas of the county, desegregation of the schools will naturally result, and the need for transportation of students to achieve it will be greatly lessened, if not eliminated.

SOURCES

All figures shown for the 1976-77 school year are estimates based upon pupil residency by race data compiled from the following Jefferson County Board of Education reports: Racial Report by School and Grade, February 25, 1977; Race by City Census Tract Report, March 30, 1977.

Data on pupil race for 1974, compiled from Exhibit Number 4, filed 5-24-74 United States District Court, Western District of Kentucky. Data for pupil race in Jefferson County for the years 1956 to 1972 appeared in the December 1973 Commission staff report entitled, More Housing Segregation Than Ever...In Louisville and Jefferson County.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
Julian M. Carroll, Governor

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Chairman
Edmund P. Karem, Louisville

H. Gene Baldridge
Ashland

Ewing P. Benberry
Kuttawa

Mrs. Betty Fleischaker
Louisville

James E. Gayheart
Pippa Passes

Mrs. Brenda S. Harris
Lexington

Floyd E. Hurley, Jr.
Louisville

Ricardo Sisney
Bowling Green

Caldwell Smith, Sr.
Madisonville

John H. Wallace
Louisville

Mrs. Willis Weatherford
Berea

Galen Martin, Executive Director
Norma J. Jones, Office Manager
Sylvia Coman, Administrative Assistant
Laken Cosby, Housing Director
Thomas A. Ebendorf, Compliance Director
John J. Johnson, Community Service Director

Under the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966, KRS 344.190 (11), the Commission has the duty "to make studies appropriate to effectuate the purpose and policies of this chapter and to make the results thereof available to the public."

This staff report was prepared by Ray Foushee, research specialist, and Doug Hamilton, research coordinator.

For information and assistance call, write, or visit one of these offices:

MAIN OFFICES: 828 Capital Plaza Tower
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: 502/564-3550

Post Office Box 60
701 West Walnut Street
Louisville, Kentucky 40201
Phone: 502/588-4024

STATEWIDE TOLL FREE DISCRIMINATION HOT LINE: 1-800/292-5566

Printed with State funds (May, 1977)